

Appl. No. 10/525,525
Amendment dated: October 1, 2009
Reply to OA of: July 1, 2009

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly define the invention in view of the outstanding Official Action. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 23, 24, 25, 35, and 36 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the claims on which it depends. It is noted that claims 15, 17, 19, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 34 are indicated to be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 112. These claims have been amended to overcome this rejection and accordingly it is most respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn. Basically, the application has been restricted to the subject matter not included in the prior art rejections. Applicants most respectfully submit that all of the claims now present in the application are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112 and are clearly patentable over the references of record.

All of the claims have been cancelled from the application without prejudice or disclaimer and a new claim set, claims 37-45, has been added to the application. Claim 37 corresponds to claim 15, further amended to clarify the rejected term, "allowable range by specifying the meaning of this term as supported by the specification at page 18, last paragraph and read in conjunction with Figure 6, showing the values in μm and not mm as shown in the specification which is an obvious error in view of the tolerances as would be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains. The specification has been amended to correct this error at page 18. This amendment obviates the rejection of claim 15 and those claims dependent thereon which are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 38 corresponds to allowable claim 23 which includes a combination of claims 16, 22 and 23 and is therefore in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn. The remaining new claims correspond to the dependent claims which were previously presented and which were not rejected over the prior art and are dependent

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on the allowable claims. These are new claims 39-45 and these claims are in condition for allowance.

The rejection of claims 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 29, 31 and 33 as being unpatentable over Kamikubota et al. (U.S. Patent 5,529,413) in view of Takeda et al. (U.S. Patent 5,062,723) has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims restricting the application to the indicated allowable subject matter.

Applicant notes that the International Search Report did not contain copies of the cited document and therefore, these references have not been considered by the Examiner. A copy of each reference is provided herewith and authorization is given to charge any necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0200. Therefore, it is most respectfully requested that these references be made of record in the present application and the initial and dated form returned with the next official action.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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